

I-2001.004 US

## II. Claim Amendments

Claims 1-31 (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer to pursue the Claims of Group II)

32. (Currently Amended) An isolated *Babesia canis* associated protein, said protein having a molecular weight of ~~15 kD~~ about 15 kD when determined by SDS-gel electrophoresis under reducing conditions and comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.
33. (Original) The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 85% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.
34. (Original) The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 90% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.
35. (Original) The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 95% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.

Claims 36-63 (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer to pursue the Invention of Group II)

64. (Currently Amended) A vaccine for combating *Babesia canis* infections, comprising an immunogen selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein according to Claim 32 and a protein according to Claim 32, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
65. (Previously Amended) The vaccine of claim 36 further comprising an adjuvant.
66. (Currently Amended) The vaccine of claim 36 further comprising an additional antigen derived obtainable from a virus or microorganism pathogenic to dogs or a nucleic acid sequence encoding said antigen.

I-2001.004 US

67. (Previously Amended) The vaccine according to claim 38, wherein said virus or micro-organism pathogenic to dogs is selected from the group of *Ehrlichia canis*, *Babesia gibsoni*, *vogeli*, *rossi*, *Leishmania donovani*-complex, Canine parvovirus, Canine distempervirus, *Leptospira interrogans serovar canicola*, *icterohaemorrhagiae*, *pomona*, *grippotyphosa*, *bratislava*, Canine hepatitisvirus, Canine parainfluenzavirus, rabies virus, *Hepatozoon canis* and *Borrelia burgdorferi*.